

NPL Site Narrative for Atlas Tack Corp.

ATLAS TACK CORP.

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Federal Register Notice: [February 21, 1990](#)

Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988): Atlas Tack Corp. formerly manufactured cut and wire tacks, steel nails, and similar items on a 12-acre site at 83 Pleasant Street in Fairhaven, Bristol County, Massachusetts. The area is residential/commercial. During 1891-1985, the facility conducted annealing, pickling, plating, enameling, and cleaning operations. From the early 1940s to the mid-to-late 1970s, wastes containing arsenic, heavy metals, and cyanide were discharged into an unlined acid neutralizing lagoon approximately 200 feet east of the manufacturing building and adjacent to a salt water tidal marsh in Buzzards Bay Estuary.

In 1984, EPA detected beryllium, mercury, nickel, toluene, and ethylbenzene in the marsh and surface water south of the lagoon, and also observed a mixture of soil and dried lagoon sediments outside the lagoon. Also in 1984, EPA analysis of on-site monitoring wells identified elevated concentrations of cyanide, toluene, and other compounds. An estimated 15,000 people obtain drinking water from public and private wells within 3 miles of the site.

During the 1980s, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering issued Notices of Violation of Hazardous Waste Regulations against Atlas Tack for its "failure/refusal to

remove lagoon contents."

Status (February 21, 1990): In a May 1989 report, Atlas Tack identified contaminants that exceed ambient water quality standards in surface water and ground water. The company has proposed cleanup levels to the State.

EPA and the State are investigating the possibility that Atlas Tack will conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]